

Stewless

Bible Story: Stewless (Esau can't wait) • *Genesis 25:24-34*

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think twice.

Memory Verse: "Wait for the LORD, be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD."

Psalms 27:14, NIV

Life App: Patience—waiting until later for what you want now.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

Collect kids' offerings as they arrive. Talk with the kids about times they need to wait to get something they really wanted (a toy, dessert, etc.). Ask kids about something "big" they're waiting for right now (birthday, spring break, summer, etc.).

[Make It Personal] Talk about a time when you had to wait for something you wanted. Share about something that you might be waiting for right now. Make sure it is age appropriate.

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

Wait—Rock, Paper, Scissors

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Have kids stand in two lines facing each other. Have them play "Rock, Paper, Scissors" with the person across from them in line. However, make them wait 15 seconds before beginning. Then, have the winners keep standing and play each other. Again, have them wait 15 seconds before starting the round. Continue until only one kid is left. Play again as time allows.

What You Say:

"What do you think would have made that game go a bit faster? That's right. We spent so much time waiting to take a turn or to play again after getting out. Waiting is pretty hard sometimes, isn't it? But even though it can be hard, it's actually really important to wait. **[Transition]** Now let's go to Large Group and find out why." Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

Catch On #1

Wait for It (application activity)

What You Need: "Wait for It Cards" Activity Page, pen, bowl (or other container)

What You Do:

Put the cards into the bowl. Have kids stand in a circle and take turns drawing a card out of the bowl and doing what it says. (*Note: You may need to read the slip for younger kids.*) If they pull a card that says, "Wait," have them sit completely still for 10 seconds. After they complete the action, they can place the paper back into the bowl. Play as long as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

"That game involved a lot of waiting. Unfortunately, it can sometimes seem like a lot of our lives are spent waiting. Often, we think there is no way we can wait another minute for something really exciting, like Christmas or summer. It can seem like the thing we are waiting for is never going to come. But we need to remember along the way that **[Impress]** when you think you can't wait, think twice. **[Apply]** Sometimes we have no choice but to wait and we need to wait patiently in those times."

Catch On #2

Hula Verses (memory verse activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: White board, marker, Bibles, Hula-Hoop

What You Do:

Look up Psalm 27:14 together as a Small Group and write it out on a whiteboard for the kids to see.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Psalm at the top of the page as you say “Psalm” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 27 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 27 for the little 14; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under “Old Testament.” You can help by telling them that Psalm starts with the letters P-S. When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 27. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Let kids take turns trying to keep the Hula-Hoop up. As one kid is spinning the hoop around, lead the rest of the kids in saying the verse together. Challenge kids to keep the hoop up long enough to make it through the whole verse. As soon as the hoop drops, let someone else take a turn.

What You Say:

“This verse tells us that we need to be strong and wait. Since there was only one hoop today, you each had to wait for a turn. Everyone wanted to go at the same time, but you ended up having to wait. God wants us to be hopeful in our waiting and to be patient. He is the one who gives us the strength to wait. It’s important to remember that ***[Impress] when you think you can’t wait, think twice. [Apply] This week, remember to be hopeful and patient when you are waiting.***”

Don't Have a Cow**Bible Story:** Don't Have a Cow (golden calf) • *Exodus 32:1-35***Bottom Line:** When you think you can't wait, think about what's true.**Memory Verse:** "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." *Psalms 27:14, NIV***Life App:** Patience—waiting until later for what you want now.**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.**Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)****What You Need:** An offering container**What You Do:**

Ask kids to tell you about a time they had to wait for someone. Who did they have to wait for? What did they do while they waited? Ask kids if they've ever been the person someone else was waiting for. Who was it? What happened?

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)**Seven Days!****What You Need:** "Seven Days" Activity Pages, markers**What You Do:**

Give each kid an Activity Page. Help them write the numbers one through seven in each of the boxes. Show them how they can mark off each day from now until next Sunday. Kids can decorate or color in their pages if they'd like.

What You Say:

"It seems like we are always waiting for something. Bring these papers home this week to help you remember how many days are left until we meet again next week. **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about what happened when some people who didn't want to wait anymore.**" Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

Catch On #1**Good Enough to Eat (application activity / review the Bible story)****What You Need:** Construction paper, scissors, glue, markers, magazines with photos or illustrations of food (optional)**What You Do:**

Instruct kids to make a collage of their favorite foods. They can either draw pictures, cut them out, and glue them to a piece of construction paper, or they can cut pictures out of the magazines to glue onto their papers.

What You Say:

"These foods look good enough to eat! But that doesn't mean you would actually want to eat them, right? When the Israelites made the golden calf, they were doing something similar to this. They made themselves a god out of things they had instead of waiting for Moses to return with a message from the real, true God. They ended up worshipping a fake god when they could have been worshipping and praying to the true God. **[Impress] When you think you can't wait, think about what's true**, because what's true is always what's best. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you were glad you waited for something better.) [Apply] So, this week, when you feel like you can't wait, remember that the truth is that waiting helps us grow.**"

Catch On #2**Verse Echo (memory verse activity)****What You Need:** Bibles; paper and pencil OR white board and marker**What You Do:**

Help kids look up Psalm 27:14 in the Bible (using the tips from week one if necessary) and review the verse together. Write it on a whiteboard or paper so all the kids can see it.

Divide kids up into two groups, and have the kids in each group line up side by side, with the two groups facing each other. Say a word or phrase of the verse and tap the head of the kid at one end of one of the lines. That kid will say the word in whatever way he wishes—whisper, sing, etc. The kid across from him will silently count to five and then echo the word back. Then tap the next kid on the head and say the next word. Continue until the entire verse has been said.

What You Say:

“This verse tells us to keep waiting, be strong, and don’t lose hope. Sometimes we may be tired of waiting or we think we have to wait for things more than other people. But, no matter how hard the waiting gets, we need to remember that **[Impress] when you think you can’t wait, think about what’s true. [Apply] This week, remember God can help you be strong and not lose hope.**”

Keep Calm and Keep Your Cool

Bible Story: Keep Calm and Keep Your Cool (a patience principle) • *Proverbs 14:29*

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, keep your cool.

Memory Verse: "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." *Psalm 27:14, NIV*

Life App: Patience—waiting until later for what you want now.

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

Talk about how hard it is to wait sometimes. Ask kids about a time they were waiting for something and they got upset, maybe even threw a temper tantrum. What were they waiting for? Why did they get so upset?

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

Glue Stick Stack

What You Need: Glue sticks

What You Do: Challenge kids one at a time to try stacking all the glue sticks. When they fall, it's the next kid's turn to try.

What You Say: For some of us, the activity might have been a bit frustrating. When the containers kept falling, it was hard to be patient, but you guys did a great job of handling the frustration. **[Transition] In Large Group today, we are going to learn about the importance of being patient and how we react when we are impatient.** Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

Catch On #1

Anger Keeps You Frozen (application activity / great for active learners / possible large-group activity)

What You Need: "Frozen Cards" (Activity Page) in a bowl or other container

What You Do:

Lead kids to play a game of freeze tag, choosing one child to be "It." When a child is tagged and frozen, the only way to be unfrozen is for the Small Group Leader to come to that child with a bowl of cards. The child will draw a card. If the child draws a "kept your cool" card, they can re-join the game. If they choose a "didn't keep your cool" card, they have to count to 20 and then raise their hand and wait for the SGL to come back around to let them draw again. Switch who is "It" every couple of minutes.

What You Say:

"Sometimes it can be very frustrating to have to wait for something. It can be especially frustrating if we feel like we are waiting because the people around us are being especially slow. But, we need to remember that how we wait matters and **[Impress] when you think you can't wait, keep your cool. [Apply] When you're waiting this week, take deep breaths if you feel yourself getting angry.**"

Catch On #2

Illustrated Translation (memory verse activity)

What You Need: White board, marker, blank note cards, crayons

What You Do:

Look up Psalm 27:14 and review the verse together. Write the memory verse on the board with the following blanks: "Wait for the _____; be _____ and take _____ and wait for the _____!" Psalm 27:14, NIV" Give kids note cards and ask them to try and draw pictures for each of the missing words. When the kids are done with their illustrations, fill in the missing words and say the verse together.

What You Say:

"This verse tells us that we should wait for the Lord and we should find strength and hope in the waiting. How we wait is also important and so **[Impress] when you think you can't wait, keep your cool. [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you had a hard time keeping your cool while you were waiting for something. Make sure to keep it age-appropriate, but also relevant.) [Apply] This week, remember to stay calm when you're waiting for something, no matter how long it takes.**"

Baby Steps

Bible Story: Baby Steps (Hannah prays for a baby) • 1 Samuel 1:6–2:1

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, talk to God about it.

Memory Verse: "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." Psalm 27:14, NIV

Life App: Patience—waiting until later for what you want now.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

Ask kids if there's something they have wanted for a long time. What is it? Why do they want it so badly? How well have they been waiting for it?

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

Small Square of Fun

What You Need: Magazines, scissors, construction paper, glue, crayons

What You Do:

Have kids look through magazines and cut out a picture of something they think would be pretty cool to have. The catch is, they can only cut out a part of the picture. Then, have them glue the picture they cut out onto a piece of paper and draw the rest of the picture.

What You Say:

"Those are some pretty cool things you guys might want. **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about someone who wanted something more special than anything a person could ever make."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

Catch On #1

Act It Out (memory verse activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Look up Psalm 27:14 and review the verse together. Have kids act out motions to the verse together. Have them put their hand out like a stop sign for "wait," point to the sky for "Lord," make muscles for "strong," look around with their hand to forehead for "lose," and both hands over their heart for "hope." Say it a few times with actions and words.

What You Say:

"It can be hard to wait and even harder to feel strong and hopeful while we are waiting. But **[Impress]** when you think you can't wait, talk to God about it. **[Apply]** If you ask God, He will give you the strength and hope to get you through the waiting."

Catch On #2

JOY

What You Need: 2-inch paper squares, crayons, scissors, toothpicks

What You Do:

Have kids scribble on 2-inch pieces of paper with a bunch of crayons. Encourage them to cover every part of the paper with color and really press down hard. Then, have them cover over the colors with black crayon. They need to press down hard on the crayons again. When they have covered over the whole page with black, give them a toothpick and have them etch the word "joy." (Note: You may need to write it somewhere for younger kids to copy.)

What You Say:

"When God eventually blessed Hannah with children, the first thing she did was pray to God to tell Him that she was full of joy and strength. **[Apply]** Let these pictures remind you this week to be full of joy and strength. You can talk to God about anything and **[Impress]** when you think you can't wait, talk to God about it."

The BEST Laid Plan

Bible Story: The BEST Laid Plan (crucifixion) • *Mark 11:1-11; 14:43–15:47*

Bottom Line: Remember that God’s plan is bigger than yours.

Memory Verse: “Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.” *Psalm 27:14, NIV*

Life App: Patience—waiting until later for what you want now.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: Beige construction paper, crayons, markers

What You Do:

Have kids draw a map. It can be a made-up map or a map of their town or somewhere they would like to go. Help them write a prayer in black marker over the map. Then, have them roll up the paper.

What You Say:

“We think we are pretty good at making plans. We have technology and maps that tell us what we need to know and we feel like we can plot our course pretty easily. But, ultimately it is God who is in control of everything. You have to **[Impress] remember that God’s plan is bigger than yours**, no matter how good you think your planning is. **[Apply] Let these maps remind you this week that no matter where we think we are going, God has a bigger plan.**”

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

The Real Superhero

What You Need: White boards and markers

What You Do:

Ask kids to list some of their favorite superheroes. Then give them some time to draw pictures of a superhero saving the world.

What You Say:

“Movies often talk about saving the world from evil through a superhero or team of crime fighters. **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about the real Savior of the world.**” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

Catch On #1

Story Pictures (application activity / review the Bible story / possible large-group activity)

What You Need: “Story Pictures” Activity Pages

What You Do:

Instruct kids to get into pairs. Have them put the pictures in order of what happened in the story.

What You Say:

“Today’s story is the most important one in the whole Bible, but it can also be the most confusing. We wonder why something like this had to happen to Jesus. Thankfully, we know that this isn’t how the story ends. Next week, we get to celebrate what happened only two days after Jesus’ death. It is such a great reminder that even when you don’t understand why you’re waiting, you can **[Impress] remember that God’s plan is bigger than yours. [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you wanted to do your own thing, but God’s plan worked out better.) [Apply] So, this week, when you feel nothing is working out, trust God that He has a plan.**”

Catch On #2

Shoes and Verses (memory verse activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Look up Psalm 27:14 and read the verse together as a review. Then, have kids remove their shoes and place them in a pile. Sit in a circle around the pile of shoes. Choose one kid to go first and choose one of the shoes

from the pile that isn't their own shoe. Whoever's shoe it is has to say the verse to get their shoe back. If they say it correctly, they can find their other shoe and then pick a new shoe to go next. If they don't say it correctly, their shoe goes back in the pile and the original chooser picks a different shoe.

What You Say:

"I think you guys have this verse down! This is a great verse to help us **[Impress]** remember that **God's plan is bigger than yours. [Apply] When you pray this week, remember this verse as a reminder that God has a reason for your waiting.**"